

Dear Rep Adrian Smith and Rep John Larson,

The Financial Services Tax Committee of the Ways & Means Committee for Tax Reform must immediately revise the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) that is destroying the community of Americans working overseas.

As one of nearly 7 million American citizens living, working and voting from abroad, and contributing to the economic growth of the U.S. economy, FATCA legislation along with FBAR (Foreign Bank Account Report) is having serious negative consequences for those of us working abroad and for the US economy.

American citizens are being denied financial tools essential for survival because of FATCA.

Business opportunities for Americans overseas are blocked due to the 10% American ownership reporting threshold for start-ups and business ventures.

Foreigners are backing away from investments in the US due to the increased oversight, risks and dangers of financial reporting in the United States.

FATCA creates a new barrier to U.S. exports as companies refuse to hire Americans due to increased exposure to IRS reporting requirements.

FATCA creates systemic risks for the entire international financial community.

FATCA puts Americans working overseas at personal and financial risk due to unsecured data transfer of highly sensitive financial and personal information.

I have a bank account for over 20 years in a major bank here, and I reported it as unjustly required by the US tax law on BOTH forms (FBAR and 8939). When one of the bank's representatives asked me one day whether I was a US citizen, I replied "I don't have to answer this question". Consequently, the bank froze my account and refuses to release the funds until I answer the question. This is in clear violation of the laws of the country where I live now. The bank is caught between a rock and a hard place: If it refuses to obey FATCA, the US will rob 30% of the bank's assets in the US. If it surrenders to the US extortion, it violates the laws of its own country. Of the two evils, it chooses the second, of course, screwing the little guy.

FATCA was supposed to uncover secret offshore financial accounts of wealthy Americans residing in the US who do not pay their due share of taxes; not to destroy the lives of honest law-abiding Americans living abroad! The US must **immediately** join the rest of the world by repealing or revising FATCA so that it won't apply to Americans living abroad for several years. The US must **immediately approve** the RBT proposal submitted by American Citizens Abroad (ACA). This would resolve the issues while creating a simpler and fairer system for Americans abroad and generating more tax revenue than the current system, which wastes compliance resources for very little return, and for other reasons as detailed in ACA's proposal: <http://americansabroad.org/files/6513/6370/3681/finalsubrbtmarch2013.pdf>

Yours sincerely,
James Parker, M.D.